

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 382

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A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Alma C. Morris of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Alma C. Morris; and

WHEREAS, Alma Morris was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a native of York, Alabama, Mrs. Morris served the North Memphis community with acumen and alacrity as a civic and political activist and earned the respect of her fellow citizens for her passionate commitment to the betterment of society and the exemplary quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, a grassroots political advocate for North Memphis, Mrs. Morris worked assiduously for Democratic Party candidates, stumping for votes in her neighborhood and serving as a national convention delegate; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, she was one of 250,000 people who took part in the March on Washington, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and other civil rights leaders; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong civil and human rights activist, Mrs. Morris lent her time and innumerable talents as a board member of the Memphis branch of the NAACP, the Civilian Law Enforcement Review Board, War on Poverty, Free the Children, the Shelby County Client Council, and the YWCA; and

WHEREAS, she rendered sterling service as President of the Klondyke Booster Club and Vice President of the Kennedy Democratic Club, which she co-founded with her husband, Charlie Morris; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Morris also ran for political office on numerous occasions and was responsible for the election of a variety of distinguished officials, including judges, city

councilmen, congressmen, county commissioners, state representatives, and state senators;  
and

WHEREAS, Alma Morris's remarkable efforts did not go unnoticed throughout her illustrious tenure in the political arena; she danced with President John F. Kennedy at his 1961 inauguration, garnered the Memphis City Council Humanitarian Award, and was honored when a City of Memphis pool and street were named after her; and

WHEREAS, renowned for her selflessness, Alma Morris was an extremely giving person who often reached out with compassion to people who life had treated unkindly; she established several community-based programs that provided help to the needy and the poor; and

WHEREAS, Alma Morris attended Tyler Barber College in 1958 and, a year later, became the owner and operator of Morris Barber Shop, which she ran until her much-deserved retirement in 2005; and

WHEREAS, she was an active and devout member of Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church, which she served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Morris was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, she enjoyed the loving companionship of her husband of sixty-five years, Charlie Morris, and was the proud mother of Charlie F. Morris, Jr., and Ronald Morris, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, she will be sorely missed by her ten grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Morris was preceded in death by her son, Anthony L. Morris; and

WHEREAS, Alma Morris leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Alma C. Morris, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Morris.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.